

Yeovil Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1950.

A. Stevens & Co., Yeovil.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health :

P. P. FOX, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

CHARLES A. WILSON, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

BRYNMOR MORRIS,
DOUGLAS N. SIBLEY.

Assistant Housing Inspector :

S. R. BARHAM.

Assistant Housing Manager :

(MISS) D. K. WASSELL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS
OF
YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950.

In general, the health of the community has been satisfactory, there being no major outbreaks of disease. Housing, or rather the lack of adequate housing accommodation, still constitutes a major defect to the well-being of the community, and this is linked up with the provision of an adequate water supply and of sewage disposal. These problems the Council are fully aware of and so far as the Council is permitted are being dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

Included in the report are details of Child Welfare work and Divisional School Work as it is considered that these reports will be of interest to the Councillors and will give a more complete picture of the health of the community. I am indebted to Dr. Davidson, County Medical Officer, for permission to publish these reports. Also included in my report are figures relating to Mass Radiography and the Rh Blood Clinic. These Clinics are held in Yeovil, but a considerable proportion of the attendances recorded are of people resident in the Rural District.

I wish to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the help and interest shown to me by members of the Council and the co-operation received from the members of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. POWER FOX.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	53,495 acres
Rateable Value (1st April, 1950)	£84,486
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in the year ending 31st March, 1951	£330
Number of inhabited houses (1st April, 1950) ..	6,108
Population	21,280

REGISTERED LIVE BIRTHS

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	300	158	142
Illegitimate	12	4	8
	<hr/> 312	<hr/> 162	<hr/> 150
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population .. .. .	..	..	14.60
Corrected Birth Rate .. .. .	..	..	15.77

STILL BIRTHS

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand Total.. .. .	6	4	2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ..	..	..	18.9

DEATHS

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
	250	130	120
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	..	..	11.73
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	..	..	11.26

MATERNAL DEATHS

Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .	..	..	Nil
Other Puerperal causes .. .. .	..	..	1

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

All Infants	7	Rate per 1,000 live births	22.8
Legitimate Infants	7	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.3
Illegitimate Infants	Nil	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages) .. .. .	..	..	79
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .	..	..	37
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages) .. .. .	..	..	2

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures for the Yeovil Rural District was 312 live births; 162 were male and 150 were female.

Of these, 12 were illegitimate (4 males and 8 females). These figures are an increase on the previous year's (4 males and 6 females).

BIRTH RATES

1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
13.88	15.9	16.8	18.6	18.3	20.8	21.71	17.3	19.9	14.6

As is shown in the table there has been a decline in the birth rate.

DEATHS

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the Yeovil R.D. was 250, viz.: 130 males and 120 females. The crude death rate was 11.73 as compared with 13.1 for the previous year. The corrected death rate was 11.26 as compared with 11.66 for the previous year.

There were 120 deaths occurring in persons over 70 years of age. The primary cause of death was heart disease (79) with cancer second (37).

The following table shows the causes of death and the sex distribution.

<i>Causes of Death</i>	1950	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	1
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach	8	1
Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	5	1
Malignant neoplasm breast	—	5
Malignant neoplasm uterus	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	11	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	28
Coronary disease angina	9	8
Hypertension with heart disease	4	1
Other heart diseases	30	27
Other circulatory diseases	6	10
Influenza	1	—
Pneumonia	4	3
Bronchitis	4	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	18
Motor vehicles accidents	1	—
All other accidents	3	2
Suicide	1	—
	130	120

The Crude Death Rate for the past ten years is as follows :—

1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
11.05	10.00	9.7	11.8	12.4	11.7	13.42	10.3	13.1	11.73

CANCER

The number of deaths due to cancer (all forms) has shown an increase as shown in the table set out below.

1930	1935	1940	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
22	20	29	27	39	39	28	51	37

It was considered that this increase was due, partly to a higher expectation of life by the population, partly to the more accurate diagnosis of the causes of death and also to the increase of the population.

Comparison of the cancer death rate per 1,000 population for the County of Somerset and for England and Wales has shown this to be correct.

CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

<i>Year</i>	1930	1935	1940	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Yeovil Rural District	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4	2.1	1.9	1.4	2.7	1.7
County of Somerset	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.07	1.9	1.9	Not Known
England and Wales	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	

It will be noted from the above table that in general the incidence of cancer in Yeovil Rural District is lower than that for Somerset or England and Wales.

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first 12 months of life was 7 as compared with 11 for the previous year and 9 for the year 1948. The rate per 1,000 of all live births was 22.8.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Prematurity	..	..	..	..	2
Atelectasis	..	..	..	..	2
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	1
Cardiac Failure	..	..	..	..	2
					—
Total..	..	..	..	..	7
					—

AGE OF DEATH

Under 24 hours 3	Under 1 week 5	1 month or under 5	Under 1 year 7					
Number of Deaths	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945		
	7	14	8	6	11	10		
Rate per 1,000 live births ..	22.8	37.4	24.7	37	34	29		
England and Wales	—	32	34	41	43	46		

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was one maternal death during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of infectious diseases notified during the year and also the figures for the previous year.

DISEASE						<i>Cases Notified</i>	
						1950	1949
Poliomyelitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	6	4
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	10	9
Dysentery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Measles .. .. .	....	..	..	..	..	83	53
Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	8	5
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Whooping Cough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	50	60
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	Nil
Encephalitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	Nil

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

The number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria, or Diphtheria and Whooping Cough was 287. In addition 221 school children received reinforcement doses. The value of Diphtheria immunisation is indicated by the table set out below and I consider its value far outweighs any disadvantages associated with anterior poliomyelitis, except during epidemic periods.

<i>Year</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>Yeovil Rural District</i>
	<i>No. of cases of Diphtheria</i>	<i>No. of cases due to Diphtheria</i>
1941	50,797	18
1950	980	Nil

The following table shows the number of children immunised at 31st December, 1950.

Number of children under the age of 5 years immunised . .	1,123
Number of children between the age of 5 & 14 years immunised	1,895

WHOOPING COUGH.

With regard to Whooping Cough, until recently it was not possible to estimate the value of immunisation and it was thought that with regard to Anterior Poliomyelitis that the risk of paralysis occurring was greater than with Diphtheria immunisation. Recently a report was published by the Medical Research Council following a detailed survey in which 6,710 children were kept under observation for two to three years. To summarise briefly, a significantly lower occurrence of illness was found in those immunised against whooping cough as compared with those children who were not immunised in the ratio of 1: 4.6 and amongst those children immunised who contracted Whooping Cough a lessened severity and shorter duration were marked. Further, of the children inoculated in none did Anterior Poliomyelitis develop within two months of inoculation.

VACCINATION

The number of children vaccinated, or re-vaccinated, during the year either by the general practitioners or by the Assistant County Medical Officer was 142. This number was made up as follows :

<i>Under 1 year</i>		<i>1 to 4 years</i>		<i>5 to 14 years</i>	
P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.
66	0	66	7	0	3

P.—Primary Vaccination.

R.—Re-Vaccination.

I am of the opinion that under existing circumstances all children should be vaccinated in infancy.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

No Local Authority Ante-Natal Clinics are held in the area, Ante-Natal supervision being conducted by the General Practitioners and the District Nurse-Midwives. A number of expectant mothers do attend the Ante-Natal Clinic held in Yeovil and a considerable number of expectant mothers attend the Rh. Clinic which is held at Yeovil.

INFANT WELFARE

Infant Welfare Centres, the responsibility for the running of which is the Somerset County Council's, are held at Martock, Stoke, South Petherton, West Coker and Wraxhill Road, Yeovil. The establishment of additional Clinics at Ilchester and Houndstone Camp is being considered by the County Council and it is hoped to establish these Clinics in 1951.

	<i>Mar- tock</i>	<i>Stoke- under- Ham</i>	<i>South Pether- ton</i>	<i>West Coker</i>	<i>Wrax- hill Road</i>
No. of children who attended for the first time	72	41	68	35	43
No. of children who attended during the year	147	170	175	70	82
Total attendances of children during the year	687	614	771	316	326
Average attendance of children per session	28.6	25.55	32.1	26	27
Average attendance of mothers per session	25	25.25	36.6	20	24
Total No. of children examined by doctor	147	128	98	58	74
No. of sessions with medical officer	11	12	12	11	12
No. of other sessions	13	12	12	1	Nil
No. of individual mothers who attended	113	92	145	54	68

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

BIRTHS

<i>Live Births</i> ..	Legitimate	300	Illegitimate	12	Total	312
<i>Still Births</i> ..	Legitimate	6	Illegitimate	—	Total	6
INFANT DEATHS						
<i>Number</i>	Legitimate	7	Illegitimate	—	Total	7

BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

The number of expectant mothers attending this clinic showed a considerable increase, the number of blood tests taken during the year being 391 as compared with 196 for the previous year. Apart from the immediate value of the test there is being built up in the Department a register showing the Blood Group, etc., of a considerable proportion of the population—approximately records are held of 700 individuals.

The average percentage of Haemoglobin of over 350 patients was 78%.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

FOOD POISONING

I am gratified to report that there were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year was 12, non-pulmonary 1. There were 2 deaths recorded as due to tuberculosis, 1 for pulmonary tuberculosis, and 1 for non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—1			1					
1—5								
5—15	1	1						1
15—25	3	3						
25—35	1	1						
35—45	1					1		
45—55	1							
55—65								
65 and upwards								
Total	7	5	1			1		1

Total New Cases : 13.

Deaths 2.

	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
No. of cases notified pulmonary	12	21	12	8	23	19
No. of cases notified non-pulmonary	1	2	4	5	3	3
No. of deaths pulmonary ..	2	6	6	—	3	9
No. of deaths non-pulmonary ..	1	2	1	—	1	1
Death rate of respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 population ..	0.09	0.32	0.33	0.0	0.16	0.5

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The above unit visited Yeovil again in 1950. Including those people examined at Westlands Aircraft, Yeovil, a total of 3,316 people were examined.

As a result of the examination 4 people were found to have active tuberculosis and 41 to have inactive tuberculous infection. Appropriate action was taken in each case. As emphasized in my previous reports, it is difficult to over-estimate the value of this service.

SOUTH-EAST SOMERSET (YEOVIL) DIVISIONAL AREA REPORT FOR 1950

SPEECH THERAPY

A Speech Training Clinic was commenced in September 1950, and since that date 22 children have attended either for regular treatment or for observation. The under quoted figures show the types of defects treated :—

Stammers	..	..	..	..	4
Dyslalias (Disordered Speech)	..	..			9
Cleft Palate	..	..	..	..	1
Sigmatisms (Lisps)	..	..	..	..	1
Motor Aphasia	..	..	..	..	1

The establishment of the Clinic in Yeovil has proved to be a great convenience inasmuch as parents and children have not had to travel to Taunton and is undoubtedly a large factor in the regularity of attendances of children undergoing treatment.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Yeovil in June/July 1950. As in the previous year, parents of children due to leave school within the coming 12 months were circularised and advised to have their children examined. Appointments were arranged for 183 children (120 boys and 63 girls) compared with 228 children examined in the previous year. It is pleasant to report that no child examined was diagnosed as Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

So far it has not been possible to arrange similar facilities for the Yeovil Rural Schools but it is hoped that this may be arranged during 1951.

ASTHMA BREATHING EXERCISES CLINIC

A Breathing Exercises Clinic for children suffering from Asthma was initiated in September 1950. The purpose of the clinic is not to cure Asthma, but by teaching the children to control their breathing, to abort a threatened attack or to minimise the severity of an attack. So far as possible collaboration between the family doctor, the Medical Specialist and the School Medical Department is maintained by close liaison and to date the results achieved have been gratifying. The clinic is conducted by Miss Waltham, Health Visitor, medical supervision being exercised by the Divisional Medical Officers. At the 31st December, 1950, 20 children were attending, 219 attendances being made since the commencement of the clinic.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT

Arrangements have now been made for closer liaison between the Medical Staff Yeovil Hospital and the School Medical Department. Copies of the Specialists reports of all children seen at Yeovil Hospital are forwarded at intervals to the Department and appropriate reports are attached on the children's School Medical records. It will be appreciated that this measure enables much more accurate medical records to be kept of children and saves unnecessary correspondence with the family doctor.

During the year 276 school children were admitted to Yeovil Hospital, viz. :

Medical—Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	11
Nephritis ..	..	..	..	..	2
Diabetes ..	..	..	..	..	1
Chorea ..	..	..	..	..	2
Other medical causes	..	..	..	..	21
Surgical—Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	33
Hernia ..	..	..	..	..	4
Accidents	..	..	..	..	12
Fractures ..	..	..	..	..	6
Other surgical causes	..	..	..	..	22
Tonsils and Adenoids, etc.—					
Tonsils ..	..	..	..	..	19
Adenoids ..	..	..	..	..	6
Tonsils and Adenoids	..	..	..	..	97
Mastoids	..	..	..	..	3
Other conditions	..	..	..	..	8
Eye Diseases—					
Squint ..	..	..	..	..	36
Other eye conditions	..	..	..	..	7

The above figures are not complete, inasmuch as they do not include school children treated at other hospitals, e.g., Crewkerne or the Bristol Hospital Group, but they account for the major proportion of the school child population.

GRAMOPHONE AUDIOMETER

During the year "Hearing Surveys" were carried out using the Gramophone Audiometer at 32 schools in the Divisional area. The total number of children tested was 1,795, the number of tests including re-testing being 2,102. The number of children failing the test was 386, of whom 106 were referred for Minor Ailment treatment, e.g., wax in ear, 25 to the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, the remainder being under supervision for re-examination at a later date.

The continuation of the Survey has served to confirm the findings of the previous report and for the necessity of the instrument as a long term policy for the correct assessment of a child's hearing ability. It will be appreciated that the diagnosis of total or severe deafness does not require any special skill or equipment, but the partial deaf child can be extremely difficult to diagnose accurately without the use of an Audiometer. The diagnosis of partial deafness in such a child even if it cannot be remedied is of value inasmuch as the parents and teachers can be informed of the child's "apparent inattention or mental backwardness" and by taking appropriate measures, e.g., arranging for the child to sit near to the teacher or to a particular side of the teacher, the tuition of the child may be appreciably improved.

As in the previous year this work has been carried out by Dr. M. I. Ross, assisted by Miss Rowles and the surveys have been facilitated by the interest shown and co-operation of the teachers concerned.

P. POWER FOX,
Divisional School Medical Officer.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1.—WATER SUPPLIES

Ilchester—Extension of main from Halfway, Chilthorne Domer to Ilchester (3,600 yards 9 ins. and 900 yards 6 ins. main) completed.

2.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Chilthorne Domer—the scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for main part of the village was completed during the year.

Ilchester—good progress was made on the scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for Ilchester and Northover.

Rivers and Streams—No action taken.

3.—PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection is undertaken in all parishes and, whilst there are occasional complaints of non-collection, due to mechanical breakdowns, etc., the service generally is carried out efficiently.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections of Sewerage and Drainage	..	..	292
Inspections for Nuisances	..	..	226
Informal Notices Served	..	..	Nil
Drainage Tests and Inspections	..	..	232
Rooms Disinfected	..	..	9
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	..	..	12
Inspection of Water Supplies	..	..	292
Slaughterhouse Inspections	..	..	166
Rodent Control Investigations	..	..	189

Shops and Offices—It was not found necessary to take any special action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

Smoke Abatement—It was not found necessary to take any action.

SECTION D

HOUSING INSPECTIONS

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)	.. .. .	1037
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. ..	1633
2. (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932	.. .. .	Nil
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	.. ..	Nil
(c)	Number of Houses in which no action was found necessary		Nil
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human occupation	.. .. .	Nil
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	.. .. .	Nil

HOUSING ACTION

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	.. .. .	52
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	.. .. .	1

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9,10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	.. .. .	Nil
2.	Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—		
(a)	By Owners	.. .. .	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	.. ..	Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.. ..	Nil
2.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—		
(a)	By Owners	.. .. .	42
(b)	By Local Authority	.. .. .	Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 13 AND 26 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
2.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
3.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Undertaking was given not to let	1

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

1.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
2.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year (<i>est.</i>)	100
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein (<i>est.</i>)	210
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein (<i>est.</i>)	700
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	21
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	36
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..	Nil

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

(a)	Number of Registered Dairies	3
(b)	Number of Retailers in the area	7
(c)	Number of supplementary licences issued to dealers or distributors whose dairy is outside the area	5
	Cowsheds and Dairies Inspected	12
	Biological Samples Taken	1

Result—negative.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

	Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed	17
	Carcases Inspected :—	
	Cows	Nil
	Calves	Nil
	Sheep and Lambs	Nil
	Pigs	Nil
	Horses	2,537

Tuberculosis only (carcases of which some part of organ was condemned) :—

Cows.. .. .	Nil
Pigs	Nil
Percentage of the number of carcases inspected affected with T.B.	—

NUMBER OF BAKEHOUSES IN THE DISTRICT .. 20

NUMBER OF OFFENSIVE TRADES CARRIED ON IN
THE DISTRICT 1

BYELAWS

Byelaws were made by the Council, under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, “for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air of food intended for human consumption.”

FOOD INSPECTION

The following food was condemned during the year :—

	lbs.
Beef (Imported)	32
(English)	112
Pork	11
Bacon	51
Mutton	35
Liver	15
Cheese	161
Tomatoes	392

CANNED AND DRIED FOODS.

Golden Syrup	14
Dried Fruit	108
Cremona Puddings	36
Dehydrated Potatoes	14
Cereals	49

and 137 tins of various foodstuffs.

WATER SUPPLY

Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	141
Number of Samples reported satisfactory	109
Number of Samples reported not entirely satisfactory	20
Number of Samples reported unsatisfactory	12

ADULTERATION

The Council is not a Local Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1950

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1950.

HOUSING

Once again I am unable to report any material improvement in the housing situation. In fact, slightly fewer new houses were completed this year than in 1949. The figures are as follows :—

COUNCIL'S PROGRAMME

1. Completed during 1950 :—

(a) Permanent Traditional Houses	58
(b) Permanent Prefabricated Houses	Nil

2. Under Construction at 31.12.50 :—

(a) Permanent Traditional Houses	43
(b) Permanent Prefabricated Houses	12

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE BUILDING

1. Completed during 1950 :—

(a) Permanent Traditional Houses	19
(b) Conversions of Buildings into Houses	8
(c) Temporary Houses	3

2. Under Construction at 31.12.50 :—

(a) Permanent Traditional Houses	8
(b) Conversions	3
(c) Temporary Houses	Nil

BUILDING LICENSING

The powers delegated to Local Authorities by the Minister of works under the Control of Civil Building (Defence Regulation 56A) remained substantially unchanged. In regard to work other than the erection of new houses, however, mention must be made of the fact that the Council's licensing "ceiling" was reduced to 80% of the value of licences issued in 1949, with the inevitable result that many outstanding applications had to be carried forward into 1951.

Licences were granted as follows :—

(a) New Houses—Private Enterprise	24
(including 3 licences from the Council's allocation for 1951 and 3 from the Yeovil Borough Council's allocation for 1951).	

(b) Conversions and Adaptations	..	..	..	..	10
(c) Other work (repairs, maintenance, etc.)	..	..	..	..	38
					<hr/>
Total..	..	..	..	..	72
					<hr/>

PLANS

A.—BUILDING BYELAWS

Number of plans approved under the Council's Building

Byelaws 174

Disapproved 2

Total.. .. . 176

B.—TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947

Number of plans submitted and passed to the Planning

Authority with the Council's observations 188

WATER SUPPLY

Extensions or Improvements of Supplies :—

Ilchester—Extension of main from Halfway, Chilthorne Domer (3,600 yards 9 ins. and 900 yards 6 ins. main) completed.

141 samples of water, from public and private supplies, were submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination, as follows :—

	<i>Public Supplies</i>	<i>Private Supplies</i>
Total number of samples taken	123	18
Satisfactory	102	7
Not quite satisfactory ..	18	2
Unsatisfactory	3	9
	<hr/> 123	<hr/> 18

Appropriate action was taken when unsatisfactory samples were reported.

There was a reduction in the yield of the boreholes, due to excessive pumping, and it was again necessary to impose restrictions on consumers in several parishes.

The Yeovil Rural Water Order, 1950, made by the Minister of Health, came into operation on the 28th October, 1950.

The Order includes authority for the Council to acquire land, construct an impounding reservoir, pumping station, treatment works, a weir and intake for the purpose of taking water from the Sutton Bingham Stream.

The Order also authorises the Council to divert the highway on the Sutton Bingham and Halstock Road and to stop up footpaths within the area of the reservoir.

It is anticipated that work will be commenced on the impounding dam, weir and intake, on the 18in. pumping main to Coker Hill, and on one of the trunk mains in 1951.

When in full operation, it is estimated that the yield will be two million gallons daily—sufficient to meet the demand for at least 20 years.

The following is a summary of the present position regarding houses and population supplied with water :—

	<i>Number of Estimated Houses Population</i>	
Public Supply direct into Houses	4,478	14,180
Public Supply by means of Standpipes	1,200	3,750
Private Piped Supplies (supplying more than 3 houses)	99	310
Without a Piped Supply, or where the supply is for 3, or fewer, houses	301	960
Totals	6,078	19,200

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Chilthorne Domer—The scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the main part of the village was completed during the year.

Ilchester—Good progress was made on the scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for Ilchester and Northover.

East and West Coker—A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal was approved by the Ministry of Health and work was expected to be commenced early in 1951.

Haselbury Plucknett—A scheme, including new disposal works and extension of existing sewers, is in course of preparation.

Mudford—A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal is in course of preparation.

Martock, Montacute and Stoke-sub-Hamdon—The Council have decided to construct a sewage disposal works at Martock to deal with the sewage of these three parishes and have given instructions for the preparation of plans of the proposed works and the necessary trunk sewers from Montacute and Stoke-sub-Hamdon to Martock.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The centralised slaughtering of animals outside the district was continued.

17 licences in respect of private slaughterhouses were renewed during the year.

Horse slaughtering is undertaken on a fairly large scale at Martock; the average number of horses slaughtered each week being just below 50.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

These are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are 20 bakehouses in the district.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

(a) Number of Registered Dairies	3
(b) Number of Retailers in the area	7
(c) Number of supplementary licences issued to dealers or distributors whose dairy is outside the area ..	5

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

The amounts of salvageable materials collected during the year and the prices realised are as follows :—

<i>Amount Collected</i>	<i>Value</i>
Waste Paper—25 tons 17 cwts.	£125 17 0
Metals—19 tons 16 cwts.	£44 11 0
Total.. .. .	£170 8 0

RODENT CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, has increased the responsibility of the Council to include all agricultural land. This increased responsibility calls for an increase in staff, owing to the large number of agricultural properties in the district to be inspected.

Good results were obtained in dealing with 48 infestations on business premises and 69 infestations on private premises.

In addition, 72 infestations on the Council's own properties, e.g., Council Houses, sewage disposal works, refuse tips, were dealt with successfully. Sewers were test baited and found generally to be free from infestation.

702 dead rats were recovered during the year, with an estimated total kill of 4,109 rats.

Your obedient servant,
CHARLES A. WILSON,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector,
Inspector of Meat and other Foods,
Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.*

